

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERN 00433 01 OF 03 270854Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 PRS-01
NRC-05 /122 W

-----049942 270900Z /11

R 270715Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5659
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 3 BERN 433

PASS DOE

USOECD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SZ
SUBJ: SWISS ENERGY ISSUES

REF: STATE 7329 AND 8880; BERN 383; 77 BERN 1740

1. SUMMARY: ENERGY MATTERS ARE AMONG MAJOR
NATL ISSUES FOR SWISS IN 1978. PARLIAMENT WILL
TAKE UP SEVERAL PROPOSALS FOR AMENDING THE NATL
ENERGY LAW. NATL REFERENDUM IS EXPECTED TO BE
HELD ON SOME OF THESE PROPOSALS IN DEC 1978 OR
EARLY 1979. SWISS GOVT IS HOPEFUL ITS PROPOSALS
WILL PREVAIL BUT VOTES ARE EXPECTED TO BE CLOSE ON
OPPOSING INITIATIVES. OUTCOME IS EXPECTED TO HAVE
IMPORTANT IMPACT ON FUTURE DIRECTON OF SWISS ENERGY
POLICY AND PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERN 00433 01 OF 03 270854Z

2. MARCH SESSION OF SWISS PARLIAMENT IS
EXPECTED TO TAKE UP SEVERAL IMPORTANT ENERGY ISSUES.
FIRST ITEM IS FEDERAL COUNCIL (SWISS EXECUTIVE) PROPOSED
PARTIAL REVISION OF SWISS NUCLEAR ENERGY LAW, WHICH
WOULD PROVIDE FOR FEDERAL COUNCIL REVIEW AND
DECISION ON APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES TO CONSTRUCT
AND OPERATE NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS. ONE PURPOSE REVIEW IS TO

ENSURE NEW STATIONS ARE NECESSARY
TO MEET SWISS ENERGY NEEDS, AND COMPLY
WITH NATL SAFETY STANDARDS, PARTICULARLY
REGARDING SPENT FUEL STORAGE. UNDER EXISTING LAW,
FEDERAL DEPT OF COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY
ACTS ALONE IN DECIDING ON LICENSE APPLICATIONS. PRO-
POSED REVISION WOULD PROVIDE PROCEDURE FOR PARTIES
OPPOSED TO NEW NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS TO PRESENT
THEIR VIEWS. PARLIAMENT IS EXPECTED APPROVE THIS
PROPOSAL. MEASURE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO NATL REFERNDUM
IF REFERNDUM PROCEDURE WERE INVOKED WITHIN 90 DAYS
FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTARY ACTION.

3. PARLIAMENT WILL ALSO CONSIDER IN MARCH POPULAR INITIATIVE,
TO WHICH GOVT IS OPPOSED, TO AMEND SWISS
ENERGY LAW "TO SAFEGUARD POPULAR RIGHTS AND SECURITY
IN CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS".
THIS INITIATIVE WOULD REQUIRE "PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL"
OF NEW NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONCESSIONS. IT WOULD
ALSO MAKE CONCESSIONS SUBJECT TO REFERENDUM VOTE BY PEOPLE LIVING
IN AREA SURROUNDING PROPOSED SITE AS WELL AS ALL
CANTONS WITHIN 30 KILOMETERS OF SITE. IT WOULD
PROVIDE UNLIMITED LIABILITY FOR INJURIES RESULTING
FROM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OPERATIONS THAT WOULD EXTEND OVER
PERIOD OF 90 YEARS FROM DATE OF INJURY. GOVT ARGUES THAT
THIS PROPOSAL IS IMPRACTICAL AND DOES NOT EFFECTIVELY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERN 00433 01 OF 03 270854Z

DEAL WITH SAFETY STANDARDS. INITIATIVE IS EXPECTED
TO BE DEFEATED IN NATL REFERNDUM VOTE WHICH FEDERAL
ENERGY OFFICE BELIEVES WOULD PROBABLY BE HELD IN EARLY
1979. HOWEVER, SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE VOTE WOULD BE
CLOSE.

4. PARLIAMENT WILL ALSO TAKE UP INITIATIVE BY SINGLE
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT WHO SEEKS MORATORIUM OF SEVERAL
YEARS ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS.
GOVT OPPOSES THIS INITIATIVE AND EXPECTS IT TO BE
DEFEATED IN REFERENDUM IN EARLY 1979, THOUGH VOTE MIGHT
BE CLOSE.

5. RESULTS OF RECENT OPINION POLL OF SAMPLE 1000
PERSONS INDICATED GROWING SWISS PUBLIC OPPOSITION
TO NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION. HOWEVER, SOME
23 PERCENT SURVEYED BELIEVED ABOLUTELY SAFE INSTALL-
ATIONS CULD BE BUILT, COMPARED TO 18 PERCENT WHO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERN 00433 02 OF 03 270806Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 DOE-11
INT-05 OMB-01 OES-07 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05
/122 W

-----049447 270900Z /11

R 270715Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5660

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 3 BERN 433

PASS DOE

USOECD

HELD THAT OPINION IN 1975 POLL, SOME 30 PERCENT
BELIEVED NUCLEAR ENERGY COULD BECOME MORE IMPORANT
BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE FUTURE OIL SHORTAGES, COMPARED
TO 24 PERCENT WHO SHARED THAT VIEW IN 1975. FOLLOWING
SHOWS PERCENTAGE RESPONSE TO QUESTION "DO YOU BELIEVE
NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS TO BE USEFUL.", COMPARED TO
PREVIOUS POLLS:

YEAR - 1973 - 1975 - 1978

USEFUL - 65 - 49 - 43

NOT USEFUL - 19 - 40 - 44

NO OPINION - 16 - 111 - 13

6. SWISS GOVT IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT TO PARLIAMENT
IN LATE 1979 PROPOSAL FOR COMPLETE REVISION OF NUCLEAR
ENERGY LAW WHICH COULD BECOME EFFECTIVE BY 1981 IF
APPROVED. DETAILS OF REVISION HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERN 00433 02 OF 03 270806Z

GOVT IS ALSO WORKING ON NEW AMENDMENT TO SWISS CON-
STITUTION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE NEW AUTHORITY TO
FEDERAL GOVT IN ENERGY AREA THAT NOW PERTAINS EXCLU-

SIVELY TO SWISS CANTONS, E.G., ABILITY TO LVEY TAX
ON OIL IMPORTS. FEDERAL ENERGY OFFICE DIRECTOR EDOUARD
KIENER BELIEVES NEW CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLE COULD BE
IN FORCE BY 1985. ADDITIONALLY, GOVT IS EXPECTED TO
PRESENT TO PARLIAMENT IN 1978 NEW NATL ENERGY PROGRAM,
WHICH WHEN APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT, WOULD BECOME
OFFICIAL NATL POLICY, SUBJECT TO REFERENDUM.

7. EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF PROPOSED MEASURES FOR REVISION
OF ENERGY LAW TAKEN UP BY PARLIAMENT THIS YEAR COULD
HAVE IMPORTANT IMPACT ON FUTURE DIRECTION OF SWISS
ENERGY POLICY AND PLANS. SWISS FEEL HYDRO-ELDCTRICITY
PRODUCTION CANNOT BE SIGNIFANTLY INCREASED AND
GREATER RELIANCE ON OIL IS UNWISE. SWISS ARE
ENDEAVORING TO REDUCE ROLE OF OIL IN MEETING THEIR
ENERGY REQUIREMENTS THROUGH END THIS CENTURY BY
DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR ELECTRICITY
PRODUCTION (77 BERN 1740). NUCLEAR ENERGY CURRENTLY
PROVIDES FOR ABOUT 18 PERCENT OF SWISS ELECTRICITY
NEEDS, THERMAL ENERGY (CHIEFLY OIL) ABOUT 4 PERCENT,
AND HYDRO ELECTRICITY ABOUT 78 PERCENT. FOLLOWING
SHOWS CURRENT STATUS OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS WITH
DATES PLANNED TO BEGIN OPERATING:

-- BEZNAU I AND II (IN OPERATION)

-- MUEHLBERG (IN OPERATION)

-- GOESGEN-DAENIKEN (OPERATIONAL MARCH 1978)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERN 00433 02 OF 03 270806Z

--LEIBSTADT (UNDER CONSTRUCTION - DEC 1980)

--KAISERAUGST (PROJECT APPROVED - OCT 1984)

-- GRABEN (PROJECT APPROVED - OCT 1986)

-- VERBOIS (PROJECT APPROVED BY NOT DATE)

-- RUETHI (CONTEMPLATED)

-- INWIL (CONTEMPLATED).

8. GOVTS PROPOSED PARTIAL REVISION OF NUCLEAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERN 00433 03 OF 03 270816Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 DOE-11
INT-05 OMB-01 OES-07 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05
/122 W

-----049502 270901Z /11

R 270715Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5662
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 3 OF 3 BERN 433

PASS DOE

USOECD

ENERGY LAW (PARA 2 ABOVE) LEFT IT OPEN FOR PARLIAMENT
TO DRAFT PROVISION ON EXTENT TO WHICH THOSE NUCLEAR
POWER STATIONS CURRENTLY IN PLANNING STAGE WOULD BE
AFFECTED BY NEW LAW. GOVTS MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT
RECOMMENDED THAT ONLY THOSE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
OF NEW LAW THAT WERE NOT COVERED IN ORIGINAL
APPLICATION FOR SITE APPROVAL BE SUBJECT TO GOVT
REVIEW. HOWEVER, POPULAR INITIATIVE (PARA 3 ABOVE)
WOULD ESTABLISH CONCESSION SYSTEM. RETROACTIVE
CONCESSION WOULD BE GRANTED TO NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS
UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR IN OPERATION ON JUN 1, 1975.
INITIATIVE REQUIRES REFERENDUM ON CONCESSIONS FOR
THOSE PLANTS WHICH ARE ONLY IN PLANNING STAGE. THIS
IS OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO GOVT BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE
CANCELLATION OF KAISERAUGST, GRABEN AND VERBOIS
PROJECTS. KAISERAUGST HAS BEEN TARGET OF STRONG
PUBLIC OPINION WHICH HAS DELAYED WORK.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERN 00433 03 OF 03 270816Z

9. SWISS GOVT ESTIMATES OF TOTAL DOMESTIC ELECTRICITY
ABAILABILITY THROUGH YEAR 2000 ARE BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT
NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS CURRENTLY PLANNED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL

BY 1986 WILL BE COMPLETED, I.E., EXCLUDING POTENTIAL OUTPUT FROM VERBOIS, RUETHI AND INWIL STATIONS. ESTIMATES ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POSSIBLE ELECTRICITY IMPORTS FROM FESSENHEIM AND BUGEY IN FRANCE. CALCULATIONS ARE BASED ON WINTER SEASON WHEN HYDRO-ELECTRIC OUTPUT DECLINES. GOVT HAS DRAWN UP FOLLOWING FOUR POSSIBLE CASE SITUATIONS, BASED ON FOREGOING ASSUMPTIONS, TO SHOW SWISS NEED TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS:

A) AVERAGE HYDRO-ELECTRIC PRODUCTION AND NORMAL NUCLEAR OUTPUT.

B) MINIMUM HYDRO-ELECTRIC PRODUCTION AND NORMAL NUCLEAR OUTPUT.

C) AVERAGE HYDRO-ELECTRIC PRODUCTION AND SHUT-DOWN OF BIGGEST NUCLEAR STATION.

D) LOW HYDRO-ELECTRIC PRODUCTION (AS WAS CASE 1973-76) AND SHUT-DOWN OF LARGEST NUCLEAR STATION. FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS ESTIMATED ELECTRICITY SURPLUS OR DEFICIT PROJECTED TO END THIS CENTURY UNDER THOSE FOUR CASES SITUATIONS:

(SURPLUS OR DEFICIT IN KILOWATT HOURS)

CASE: - (A) - (B) - (C) - (D)

1979-80 - 1900 - -200 - 100 - -600

1984-85 - 4200 - 2100 - 500 - -200

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERN 00433 03 OF 03 270816Z

1989-90 - 4000 - 1900 - 400 - -400

1994-95 - -700 - 2800 -5300 - -6000

10. GOVT BELIEVES FUTURE SWISS ENERGY NEEDS COULD BE MET ONLY BY INCREASED OIL CONSUMPTION IF NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS HALTED AFTER LEIBSTADT STATION BECOMES OPERATIONAL IN 1980. HOWEVER, ATTITUDE OF SWISS PUBLIC DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ONE THAT IS COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR POWER. ATTITUDE SEEMS TO BE MORE ONE OF DESIRE FOR THOROUGH STUDY OF THE COUNTRY'S ENERGY REQUIREMENTS, ASSURANCE THAT MAXIMUM SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ARE APPLIED, AND THAT PLANTS ARE BUILT IN BEST LOCATIONS IN TERMS OF SAFETY AND NEED.

WARNER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, ENERGY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERN00433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780040-0681
Format: TEL
From: BERN USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780116/aaaaanbm.tel
Line Count: 328
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c2b770df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 7329, 78 BERN 383, 77 BERN 1740
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3704097
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWISS ENERGY ISSUES
TAGS: ENRG, SZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2b770df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014